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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 76, 80 and 82-88 without prejudice, resulting in the following listing of the claims. This listing replaces and supersedes all prior claim listings.

1-72 (Cancelled)

73. (Previously Presented) A signal encoding method characterized by:

detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a predetermined time interval; and

inserting an identification signal relevant to the video signal and/or audio signal only within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/or audio signal.

74. (Previously Presented) A signal encoding method as claimed in claim 73, wherein said identification signal is inserted into the video signal and/or audio signal in such a configuration as to be detectable on statistical processing of the video signal and/or audio signal.

75. (Previously Presented) A signal encoding method as claim in claim 74, wherein said identification signal is inserted into least significant bits of samples of the video signal and/or audio signal.

76. (Previously Presented) A signal recording method comprising:

detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a predetermined time interval;

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inserting an identification signal relevant to the video signal and/or audio signal only within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/or audio signal; and

recording the video signal and/or audio signal, into which said identification signal has been inserted, on a signal record medium.

77. (Previously Presented) A signal encoder characterized by:

detecting means for detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a predetermined time interval; and

inserting means for inserting an identification signal relevant to the video signal and/or audio signal only within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/or audio signal.

78. (Previously Presented) A signal encoder as claimed in claim 77, wherein said identification signal is inserted into the video signal and/or audio signal in such a configuration as to be detectable on statistical processing of the video signal and/or audio signal.

79. (Previously Presented) A signal encoder as claimed in claim 78, wherein said identification signal is inserted into least significant bits of samples of the video signal and/or audio signal.

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80. (Previously Presented) A signal recording apparatus comprising:  
detecting means for detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a predetermined time interval;  
inserting means for inserting an identification signal relevant to the video signal and/or audio signal only within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/or audio signal; and  
recording means for recording the video signal and/or audio signal, into which said identification signal has been inserted, on a signal record medium.

81. (Previously Presented) A signal transmitting method comprising:  
detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a predetermined time interval;  
inserting an identification signal relevant to the video signal and/or audio signal only within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/or audio signal; and  
transmitting the video signal and/or audio signal into which said identification signal has been inserted.

82-88. (Canceled)